

17/01/09

To: The Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
the Senate,
Parliament House,
Canberra Act 2600

Issue: Australia becoming a republic

Dear madams and sirs

I like to voice my concerns about Senator Brown's move, for a Private Members Bill entitled "Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Act 2008". Next holding public meetings on the 1st and 2nd April 2009 and then report back to the Senate by the 15th of June 2009. The issue and reason should Australia become a republic.

I fully agree with the points below:

- Senator Brown estimates that a plebiscite question held along with the next general election would cost approximately \$10.5 million. However, when one includes labour and material costs, it is more likely to be far in excess of this figure. Australia cannot afford to waste money at this time of financial concern, particularly on a matter which has already been voted upon by the people.
- A plebiscite is not the way to proceed. The proper process for constitutional change is set out in Section 128 of the Constitution, which is the Referendum process. This requires the electorate to be properly informed of what is proposed. No designer question could possibly do this.
- The Republic Referendum held in 1999 lost both nation-wide as well as in all States.

So why try again in the form of a Plebiscite a non-binding simple question? Isn't Australia a healthy strong young nation because of a Crown and her constitution!

Yours sincerely
E. Fahner